Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) In a concrete column supporting an overhead load and having a base and resting on a surface, a process of applying strengthening to the column to increase its ability to withstand atypical physical loading accompanying an earthquake, comprising the steps of:

(a) defining a work area about the surface of the column to which said strengthening is to be applied, said work area defined by circumferential marginal edges arranged in spaced-apart relation about the column;

(b) overwrapping said work area with at least one layer of a unidirectionally reinforced thermoplastic sheet, wherein said sheet is wrapped around the column and wherein said sheet is applied to the column with a self-tightening winch;

~~The process as recited in claim 1 wherein the sheets are applied to the column with a self-tightening winch.~~

(c) welding said sheet to said column; and

(d) injecting a filler into an annular space between the sheet and the column, after said sheet is wrapped around the column.

4. (Original) The process as recited in claim 3 wherein the winch wraps the sheet around the column prior to welding.

5. (Currently Amended) The process as recited in claim 3 ~~claim 1~~ wherein the sheet has a thickness of from about 0.1 mm to about 3 mm.

6. (New) The process as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

providing said sheet with a thickness corresponding with design criteria for said column.

7. (New) The process as recited in claim 3, further comprising:

wrapping said sheet to form at least one overlap joint; and

welding each overlap joint after said sheet is applied to the column with a self-tightening winch.

8. (New) The process as recited in claim 6, wherein welding each overlap joint comprises ultrasonic welding.

9. (New) The process as recited in claim 6, further comprising:

coating the column with adhesive prior to wrapping said sheet to form said at least one overlap joint.

10. (New) A method of strengthening a concrete column, comprising:

wrapping a unidirectionally reinforced thermoplastic sheet around the column where strengthening is needed, and forming at least one lap joint;

tightening the sheet at each said lap joint; and

joining each said lap joint by ultrasonic welding.

11. (New) The method of Claim 10, further comprising: applying adhesive to the column where strengthening is needed, followed by said wrapping the unidirectionally reinforced thermoplastic sheet.

12. (New) The method of Claim 10, further comprising: tightening the sheet at each said lap joint by winching.

13. (New) The method of Claim 10, further comprising: injecting a filler into an annular space between the sheet and the column, after said sheet is wrapped around the column.